

APPENDIX C9: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN &  
APPROVAL

# Public Participation Plan

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN  
IN TERMS OF THE DIRECTIONS REGARDING MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND  
COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 RELATING TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT PERMITS AND LICENCES DURING COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 3**

**THE PROPOSED 450MW RISK MITIGATION POWER PURCHASE PROGRAMME POWER PLANT  
AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE SITUATED ON VARIOUS ERVEN AT ALTON  
INDUSTRIAL AREA, RICHARDS BAY, KWAZULU-NATAL, COMPRISING OF EITHER OPEN  
CYCLE GAS TURBINES OR RECIPROCATING GAS ENGINE TECHNOLOGIES.**

**Application to be submitted**

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The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on the commencement and continuation of the public consultation as part of an EIA and BA process. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the DEA, to cater for the conducting of the public participation process which includes I&APs, the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders.

**Project Details:**

Phinda Power Producers (Pty) Ltd ("**Phinda**") proposes the construction of:

- a power plant, and associated infrastructure, of up to 450MW;
- electricity evacuation infrastructure at 132kV; and
- liquid petroleum gas ("**LPG**") storage, and associated infrastructure, of up to 10,000m<sup>3</sup>
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The project is collectively referred to as the "RMPPP Project".

The RMPP Project has been initiated by Phinda in response to the procurement process expected to be initiated in July 2020 by the Independent Power Producer Office ("**IPP Office**") for the procurement of up to 2000MW of dispatchable generation capacity from a range of technologies in accordance with the new generation capacity required as specified in the Integrated Resource Plan 2019 and accompanying ministerial determination from the Minister for the Department of Resources and Energy to which the National Energy Regulator of South Africa has concurred.

The IPP Office has advised that it will initiate the 2000MW of new generation capacity procurement under a programme to be administered by it and titled the Risk

Mitigation Power Procurement Programme (“**RMPPP**”), targeting first generation and transmission of energy to the grid by 31 December 2021. The IPP Office is attempting to fast track the implementation of the 2000MW of new generation capacity to be procured under the RMPPP in order to alleviate the frequent load shedding being experienced in South Africa at present and is specifically targeting new generation capacity that can be brought onto the grid as quickly as possible.

In developing the RMPPP Project, Phinda is proposing to undertake separate scoping and environmental impact assessment (“**EIA**”) process for each of:

- the 450MW power plant and 10,000m<sup>3</sup> LPG storage facility, and all associated infrastructure; and
- a basic assessment for the transmission line.

The 450MW power plant will comprise of either open cycle gas turbines or reciprocating gas engine technologies and will initially utilise LPG as its fuel source supplied by road LPG tankers from the LPG import terminal located in the Port of Richards Bay. A LPG storage terminal of up to 10,000m<sup>3</sup> will need to be established on the project site as on site fuel storage for the power plant.

Once natural gas is available in Richards Bay via the anticipated future establishment of imported liquid natural gas (“**LNG**”) and regassification infrastructure within the Port of Richards Bay and the construction of gas transmission pipelines to facilitate the transportation of the natural gas, the 450MW power plant would be converted from utilising LPG as its fuel source to natural gas supplied via pipeline.

The establishment of the 450MW RMPPP Power Plant will simultaneously require the implementation of the 132kV transmission project to allow for the evacuation of the electricity produced by the Power Plant to the existing high voltage electricity transmission infrastructure in close proximity to the Power Plant. Due to the large number of existing high voltage transmission lines between the proposed 450MW Power Plant site and the electricity evacuation connection point, electricity evacuation is proposed via underground transmission cables to connect to an existing unutilised 132kV transmission line.

As indicated above, a separate basic assessment process will be undertaken for the evacuation of the electricity from the 450MW power plant to the grid, as Phinda wishes to secure a separate Environmental Authorisation for the 132kV Transmission line as ultimately it is expected that this Environmental Authorisation will need to be transferred to Eskom when Eskom takes over ownership and control of the transmission infrastructure.

**Public Participation Plan:**

It is proposed that the public participation processes for the power facility and grid infrastructure be undertaken concurrently. The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process is primarily to ensure that:

- » information containing all relevant facts in respect of the proposed project is made available to potential stakeholders and I&APs;
- » participation by I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that all potential stakeholders and I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed project; and
- » comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the EIA process.

The traditional means and opportunities available for the undertaking of public participation will still be covered and implemented as part of this plan considering the current limitations. Alternative means of undertaking consultation has been designed and will be implemented by Savannah Environmental to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the project through an interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person illustrating interest in the project and enables the public participation process to be undertaken in line with Regulations 41 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. This online stakeholder engagement platform allows the EAP to visually present details regarding the project and our consultation documentation, including project maps and plans, presentations and posters regarding the project, and reports available for review. The use of online tools enables stakeholders and I&APs to explore the project-specific content in their own time, and allow them to participate in a meaningful way in the consultation process. The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting. The online stakeholder engagement platform considers the limitations applied by the Disaster Management Act Regulations prohibiting the gathering of people, as well as limitations which certain I&APs may have in terms of access to computers and internet as well as access to public spaces not open for operation or which have restricted access.

The benefits of the online stakeholder engagement platform include:

- Ability to create a dedicated project-specific online platform to enable easy access to project-related information.
- Ability to reach a wider audience, allowing more widespread consultation for major infrastructure projects.

- Allowing stakeholders and I&APs the opportunity to engage on a project without leaving their office or home.
- Enabling stakeholders and I&APs to register their interest in a project (for inclusion on the project database), and automatically gaining access to comprehensive project documentation.
- Enabling the EAP to maintain a complete database of I&APs through maintaining a record of persons accessing the online stakeholder consultation platform.
- Enabling the EAP and stakeholders/I&APs to meet virtually.
- Provides a resilient solution to a public consultation process.

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities i.e. access to internet, mobile phones, or computers, provision has been made to include these I&APs in the consultation process by consulting with the Ward Councillor, the ward committee members, community representatives and local community forum members.

The schematic illustration below provides an overview of the tools that are available to I&APs and stakeholders to access project information and interact with the public participation team to obtain project information and resolve any queries that may arise, and to meet the requirements for public participation.

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i. Stakeholder identification and register of I&APs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Register as an I&amp;AP on the online platform via completion of a form and provision of contact information, by responding to an advert, or sending a 'please call me' which will be responded to</li><li>• State interest in the project</li><li>• Receive all project related information via email</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| ii. Advertisements and notifications                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advertisements, site notices and/or radio live reads and notifications provide information and details on where to access project information</li><li>• Notifications regarding the EIA and BA processes and availability of project reports for public review to be sent via email, post or SMS notifications</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                              |
| iii. Public Involvement and consultation            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distribution of a BID providing details on the project and how I&amp;APs can become involved in the process</li><li>• Submission of comments or queries via the online platform to the PP team</li><li>• Virtual presentations (both English and isiZulu) available via the online platform</li><li>• Availability of project information via the online platform</li><li>• An opportunity for I&amp;APs and stakeholders to request virtual meetings with the project team</li></ul> |
| iv. Comment on the Scoping, EIA and BA Reports      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Availability of the project reports via the online platform for 30-day comment period</li><li>• Submission of comments via the online platform, email or post to the PP team</li><li>• Comments recorded and responded to, as part of the process</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| v. Identification and recording of comments         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comments and Responses Report, including all comments received, and included within the final Report for decision-making</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

The PP plan, as set out in the table below, has been drafted for the above-mentioned project to ensure that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs and that all administrative actions are reasonable. Proof of all notifications will be included in the public participation appendix included in the Scoping, EIA and Basic Assessment reports.

The PP plan is submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs, for discussion and agreement before the PP process is undertaken for the proposed project.

**Public Participation Plan: Discussion of approach and methodology to meet the requirements of the Regulations**

| Regulation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Approach & Methodology to meet requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <p>Regulation 40(1), Regulation 40(3) &amp; Regulation 43 – provide all potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, <b>access to project related information</b>, access to the Scoping, EIA and Basic Assessment reports which will be made available for a period of at least 30 days to <b>submit comments on draft reports</b> prior to submission of final reports for decision-making.</p> | <p><u>Notification of Scoping, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Basic Assessment (BA) processes to be undertaken for application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) to be distributed using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-mail</li> <li>• Dedicated project page on the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform</li> <li>• Post</li> <li>• Process notices placed at locations that are accessible to I&amp;APs</li> <li>• Advertisement in the printed media.</li> </ul> <p><u>Notification of availability of reports and period for review using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newspaper adverts, including details of where the report can be accessed and details of the Savannah Environmental website.</li> <li>• Radio adverts (live read) on local radio stations.</li> <li>• Notification letter (to be sent via email, fax or post) to registered I&amp;APs.</li> <li>• Notifications to communities via Ward Councillor, ward committee members, identified and confirmed community representatives, and local community forum members.</li> <li>• SMS and/ or WhatsApp notifications where no other means are available.</li> </ul> <p><u>Availability of reports for review:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports available on the Savannah Environmental website for download.</li> <li>• Electronic copies can be made available to parties via a secure Dropbox link that will be emailed upon request for the documentation.</li> <li>• CDs to be posted, if requested.</li> </ul> |



| Regulation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Approach & Methodology to meet requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard copy reports to be available only where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained.</li> <li>• Report will be submitted to the DEA using the DEA online portal.</li> <li>• Report will be submitted to Organs of State and commenting authorities via an agreed electronic platform (such as on CD, or via a secure Dropbox link).</li> </ul> <p><u>Submission of comments to EAP:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments will be able to be submitted directly to the EAP using the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. A customised reply form is available on this webpage.</li> <li>• The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting.</li> <li>• Written comments can also be submitted via email, post or fax.</li> <li>• Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Regulation 40(2) - Provide access to all project information that has the potential to influence any decision regarding the application, unless protected by law, and must include <b>consultation</b> with Competent Authority, Organs of State &amp; registered I&amp;APs.</p> <p>Regulation 41(6) – Relevant <b>information available and accessible</b></p> | <p>Provision of project information and consultation via various means including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephonic consultation.</li> <li>• Email correspondence.</li> <li>• Correspondence sent via post.</li> <li>• SMS and/or WhatsApp.</li> <li>• The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform will ensure that I&amp;APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to participate in the project and raise comments on the project to any person with interest in the Scoping, EIA and BA processes for the project. This online stakeholder engagement platform which will include the following:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A means to register on the project database and provide details of their interest in the project</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| Regulation                                                                                                                                                                                  | Approach & Methodology to meet requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Background information on the project</li> <li>○ Project maps (including locality map, layout map, sensitivity map, landowner map, etc)</li> <li>○ Photos of the project site and surrounds</li> <li>○ Presentation with narration providing a summary of the project details and the findings of the Scoping, EIA and BA reports</li> <li>○ Posters providing a summary of the findings of the Scoping Assessment, EIA and Basic Assessment.</li> <li>○ A means of submitting written comment or queries.</li> <li>● Virtual meetings using an appropriate platform agreeable to all parties (such as Zoom, Skype or Teams). The meeting will be recorded and the attendees' details captured in an attendance register. Confirmation of their attendance will also be requested by e-mail and the correspondence will be included in the report.</li> <li>● Communities will be consulted via the relevant Ward Councillor, ward committee members, community representative or local community forum members, as determined and confirmed during the consultation process.</li> </ul> |
| Regulation 41(2)(a) – <b>Site notice</b>                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Site notices will be placed at affected properties by the EAP, landowner or specialist, depending on specific travel restrictions applicable at the time.</li> <li>● Size and content will be in accordance with Regulation 41(3) &amp; 41(4).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Regulation 41(2)(b) – <b>Written notification</b> to affected and neighbouring landowners and occupiers; municipality; ward councillors; Organs of State & other parties required by the CA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Notification letter to be sent via email, fax or post.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Regulation 41(2)(c) – (e) – <b>Advertisements</b>                                                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adverts to be placed in a local newspaper.</li> <li>● Radio adverts (live reads) will be used as alternative means based on the nature, extent of the projects and the demographics within the vicinity of the project location.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Regulation                                     | Approach & Methodology to meet requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process notices (A4 size) with site notice details will be placed at public places that are frequented by and accessible to community members during Alert Level 3.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>Regulation 42 – <b>Project database</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I&amp;APs to be identified through a process of networking and referral, obtaining information from the Savannah Environmental existing stakeholder database, liaison with potentially affected parties in the greater surrounding area and a registration process involving the completion of a reply form.</li> <li>• Organs of State, key stakeholders and affected and surrounding landowners will be identified and registered on the project database.</li> <li>• Other stakeholders will be required to formally register their interest in the project through either directly contacting the Savannah Environmental Public Participation team via email or fax or use of the Savannah Environmental website.</li> <li>• In order to access the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform for a specific project, I&amp;APs will be required to provide their details such that they are automatically registered on the project database.</li> <li>• The register of I&amp;APs will contain the names of:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ all persons who requested to be registered on the database through the use of the Savannah Environmental website, or in writing and disclosed their interest in the project;</li> <li>○ all Organs of State which hold jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and</li> <li>○ all persons who submitted written comments or attended virtual meetings and viewed virtual presentations on the Savannah Environmental website during the public participation process.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The information captured on the project database will contain the names, organisation and contact details, as required.</li> </ul> |

| Regulation                                                       | Approach & Methodology to meet requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Regulation 44 – <b>Comments</b> to be recorded                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments will be able to be submitted directly to the EAP using the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. A customised reply form is available on this webpage.</li> <li>• The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A means to register on the project database and provide details of their interest in the project</li> <li>○ A means of submitting written comment or queries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting.</li> <li>• Written comments can also be submitted via email, post or fax.</li> <li>• Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> <li>• I&amp;APs without the applicable electronic facilities to access the Savannah Environmental website will be provided with the opportunity to submit their comments and communicate with the public participation team via SMS, WhatsApp or by sending a Please-call-me notification. These comments will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> <li>• All comments received throughout the EIA and BA processes will be acknowledged and captured in the comments and responses report (C&amp;RR) with a relevant response.</li> <li>• The C&amp;RR will be included in the final report submitted to the CA.</li> </ul> |
| Regulation 4(2) – Notification of <b>decision</b> on application | <p><u>Notification of Environmental Authorisation (EA) using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification letter with details as outlined in EA issued will be sent via email, fax or post.</li> <li>• Notification will be available on the Savannah Environmental website</li> <li>• Notifications that the EA has been issued and where to download and/or obtain a copy to communities via Ward Councillor and his/her ward committee members and identified and confirmed community representatives.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| <b>Regulation</b> | <b>Approach &amp; Methodology to meet requirements</b>                                                       |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="958 236 1402 258">• SMS or WhatsApp notification.</li></ul> |

# Approval of Public Participation Plan

## Arlene Singh

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**From:** Bathandwa Ncube <BNcube@environment.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 August 2020 12:22  
**To:** Arlene Singh; Masina Litsoane  
**Cc:** Jo-Anne Thomas; Marco Raffinetti; aldine armstrong; Thivash Moodley; Wayne Lindecke; fdt@ilifa.biz; 'Kobus - SC3'; Mkhabela, Martin  
**Subject:** Re: 450MW Emergency Risk Mitigation Power Plant & 4000MW Combine Cycle Power Plant and associated transmission infrastructure- Follow Up Pre-Application Meeting Minutes

Goodday Arlene

**Re: 2020-07-0037\_PRE-APPLICATION MEETING: SEPARATE 450MW POWER PLANT (OPEN CYCLE GAS TURBINE OR RECIPROCATING GAS ENGINES) AND 4000MW COMBINED CYCLE POWER PLANT (CCPP) PROJECTS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT ON VARIOUS ERVEN AT ALTON, RICHARDS BAY, KWAZULU-NATAL**

This is to confirm that I was part of the meeting that took place on Wednesday, 12 August 2020 at 14h00.

I do not have any objections regarding the draft minutes of the meetings.

The Public Participation Plan submitted for review is approved, you may submit your online application once you have concluded the design drawings enquiry.

kind regards

**Ms Bathandwa Ncube**

Department of Environmental Affairs

Regulatory, Compliance and Sector Performance

Integrated Environmental Authorisations: National Infrastructure Projects

(T) 012 399 9368 (C) 072 780 7777

(E) [BNcube@environment.gov.za](mailto:BNcube@environment.gov.za)

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**From:** Arlene Singh <arlene@savannahsa.com>

**Sent:** 17 August 2020 11:16 AM

**To:** Masina Litsoane; Bathandwa Ncube

**Cc:** Jo-Anne Thomas; Marco Raffinetti; aldine armstrong; Thivash Moodley; Wayne Lindecke; fdt@ilifa.biz; 'Kobus - SC3'; Mkhabela, Martin

**Subject:** 450MW Emergency Risk Mitigation Power Plant & 4000MW Combine Cycle Power Plant and associated transmission infrastructure- Follow Up Pre-Application Meeting Minutes

Good morning Masina and Bathandwa,

I trust that you are both well.

Kindly find attached the follow up pre-application meeting minutes for your perusal. I have also attached the public participation plans that had been submitted with the follow up-pre-application meeting request for your perusal and consideration for approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries. Thank you.

Kind regards,



**Arlene Singh**  
Environmental Consultant

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SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

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'Please consider the environment before you print this email'

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